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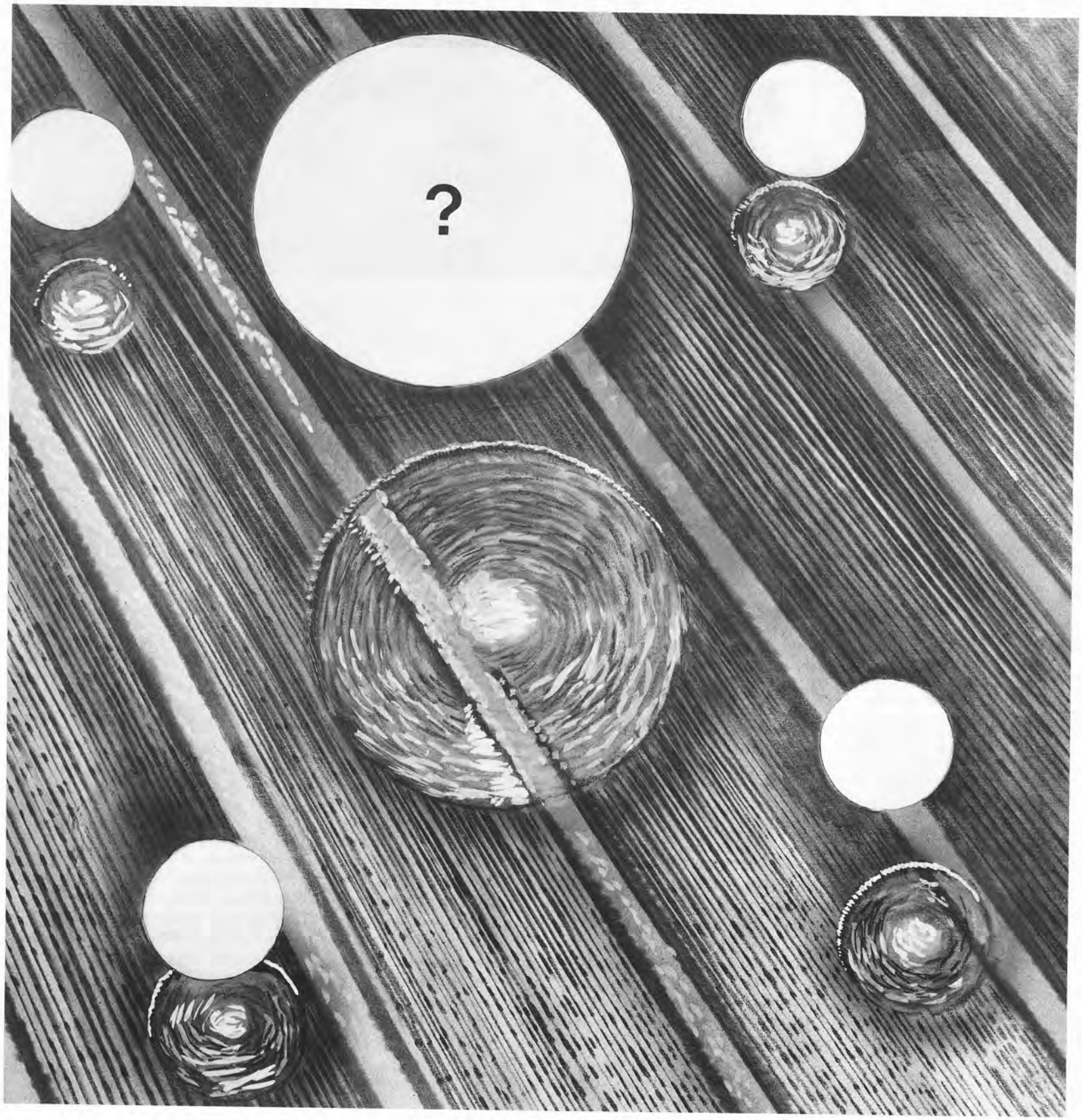

Mystery of the circles

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

Breeze from the gulf

Jerome Clark

In the last issue of *IUR* — and in a *Special Bulletin* CUFOS released in April — we expressed our reservations about the extraordinary claims being made by a Gulf Breeze, Florida, man known in the UFO literature only as "Ed," who has taken a series of dramatic pictures of alleged UFOs and who says he has been abducted on more than one occasion.

Our colleagues in MUFON, on the other hand, felt from the beginning (this past November) that the Gulf Breeze case was potentially a very important one, and early on the MUFON team, under the direction of Donald Ware, was issuing positive public statements. Despite our reservations (which were not assuaged by the badly-written, confusing reports on the case being published in the *MUFON UFO Journal*) we of CUFOS remained silent until, concerned that all of ufology was being taken 90 miles an hour down a dead-end street, we declared our deep doubts. It is fair, I think, to characterize our position as militantly skeptical.

It is also fair to say that militant skepticism — of the sort, to be specific, in which I engaged in my previous editorial, when I suggested that the case did not merit serious consideration — is no longer a defensible position. That does not mean, I must add, that reasonable caution or doubts born of long experience with the Gulf Breeze case's only seeming precedents in UFO history (Adamski, Meier, et al) ought to be discarded. An intuitive sense remains that something is not quite right here, and intuitive feelings are not always wrong.

That said, it must also be acknowledged that, when I and several CUFOS colleagues heard Bruce Maccabee's presentation at the MUFON conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, in June (his paper is printed in the *MUFON 1988 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155, for $16.50 postpaid), it was hard not to be impressed with the quality of his work which, though yet to be completed, so far points to a positive conclusion. The objects do seem to be large — too large to be the small models that we critics suspected were what Ed's photographs depicted.

Following his lecture, Dr. Maccabee was challenged by, among others, a skeptical Hollywood special-effects expert. Maccabee answered each of his objections logically and convincingly, reflecting the enormous amount of thoughtfulness, effort and imagination he had brought to bear as he sought to validate or debunk the pictures. Even the special-effects expert acknowledged that Maccabee's responses were satisfactory.

CUFOS board member and investigator Don Schmitt and I spent a couple of hours with Ware and were able to review with him the subsidiary evidence: the other sightings (some 65 in all) made by Gulf Breeze-area residents of objects that seem very much like those that figure in the photographs. Whatever else may or may not be true about this difficult case, it does seem clear that *something* is in the air over Gulf Breeze.

It is, all this notwithstanding, premature to endorse this case and CUFOS, although it has been asked to do so, has refused. We believe that before ufology commits itself, it must insist on a second, wholly independent photoanalysis, preferably done by someone who has no position in the matter. This is not in any way to criticize Maccabee, who has performed as admirably as ever. But in science, replication, especially of claims with fantastic implications (and what is implied here is something that may well constitute significant evidence of extraterrestrial visitation), is an essential part of the truth-seeking process. Two thorough, competent photoanalyses coming to the same (positive) conclusion would constitute the sort of evidence ufologists can — and should — take to the scientific community.

At the moment, however, Gulf Breeze proponents clearly have the lead in the debate and it is now up to the doubters to tell us (1) where Maccabee is wrong and (2) what all those other people are seeing if not Ed's UFOs.

Is it possible that this is *somebody else's* hoax — in other words, a hoax of which Ed and his family are victims as much as the rest of us? There is no evidence, admittedly, to support such a notion, but the possibility may be worth looking into.

Of course such speculation gets us deep into the murky waters of conspiracy theory. I bring it up only because it remains true, as CUFOs has repeatedly observed, that Gulf Breeze is unlike any authentic UFO case of which we are aware. But it is also unlike any *in*authentic UFO case of which we are aware. Other claims of repeated contact and clear photographs have collapsed under proper investigation; this one seems to be getting stronger. Or is this only because the investigators are looking in the wrong places for the answers?

We'll see. In the meantime we urge all ufologists to open their minds to all possibilities and to refrain, until we know a great deal more, from making flat declarations about the ultimate meaning of the Gulf Breeze episode. That, of course, includes us. — *Jerome Clark*

Mystery circles: myth in the making

by Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller, research officer for the British UFO Research Association, is a professional statistician. He is coauthor of *Mystery of the Circles* (1986).

By now there can be few ufologists who are not aware of the smoldering controversy in Britain over those mysterious circles of flattened arable crop which appear every summer across southern England. None of us will be too surprised to learn that these phenomena have been greeted in some quarters with great acclaim, while one British ufologist even went so far as to claim that the "government" had erected "secret electronic towers" to observe how the UFOs were "creating the circles." The "electronic tower" was in fact a temporary oil-drilling rig.

I'm sorry to have to dampen such enthusiasm because I too believe that there are "unrecognized phenomena" (what a wonderfully vague phrase!) in the UFO data; however, the evidence presented so far for a causal link between UFOs and the "mystery circles" has been exceptionally weak and open to criticism.

Let me begin by describing exactly what is happening so that readers may judge for themselves what classes of theory might reasonably account for the phenomenon.

Characteristics

Every summer—between early May and the end of September—groups of precisely-defined circular areas are appearing (overnight and unobserved) in near ripe arable crops (mainly cereals such as wheat and barley). The affected zones are in fact slightly elliptical rather than precise circles, and the affected crop is laid flat in a distinctive swirl pattern which emanates out from a spiral center which rarely coincides with the focal points of the ellipse. The crop itself is rarely damaged by the causing agent and is typically laid down in bands as if a giant comb with uneven teeth had been pressed down from above and rotated through the corn. Furthermore, careful observation reveals that the affected zone is actually *layered* so that each layer of corn points in different and highly divergent directions (sometimes as much as 160°).

Typically, circles appear in isolated rural locations where they lie undiscovered until harvesting. A recent survey carried out by the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and the Tornado and Storm Research Organization (TORRO) revealed that only a small proportion of circle formations (about 10 percent) are receiving media publicity; many dozens of formations go unreported. This factor makes our task of evaluating the phenomenon much more difficult because our knowledge is based upon a small (and highly biased) sample of the formations that are actually appearing.

Perhaps the most fascinating characteristic of the phenomenon is the number of different formation types which have been discovered over the past decade. Although single circles appear to be the most common formation, circles with outer rings and quintuplets (sets of five) are also relatively common.

Significantly, no two circle formations have ever been shown to be identical in shape or size every formation is unique. Furthermore, reliable accounts of similar circles have been discovered in many countries over a prolonged period (at least 40 forty years) with relative ease. This immediately suggests that there may well be a natural or mundane explanation for the phenomenon, despite the wild claims some ufologists have made in the tabloid press.

By 1986 we of the British UFO Research Association had become so concerned about the press' uncritical attitude that we published a booklet—*Mystery of the Circles*—which described in detail our six years of research into the phenomenon, the sensational and unscrupulous attitude of the media, and the plethora of explanations being considered by our less informed colleagues. The report was compiled by Jenny Randles, BUFORA's highly respected Director of Investigations, and by me, a BUFORA investigator living close to the location of the most well-known circle forming areas—rural Hampshire in the South of England. We circulated free copies of the report to every national newspaper in England (and to several TV and radio stations) in an attempt to persuade the media to adopt a more critical approach to the phenomenon. Despite our very best efforts, however, this utterly overwhelming desire to promote incredible interpretations of the phenomenon continues unabated.

Space forbids me from discussing every theory discussed in *Mystery of the Circles*, but I think four theories in particular should be of interest to the serious ufologist. These theories are: hoaxes, helicopter downwash, UFOs and natural vortices.

Hoaxes

Experienced ufologists will not be surprised to learn that *some* circle formations have been exposed as proven hoaxes by publicity seekers and members of the press. During August 1983 the British *Daily Mirror* paid two farmers, Alan and Francis Sheppard, to hoax a quintuplet formation on their land at Westbury in Wiltshire. The aim of the hoax was to lure another British newspaper, *The Daily Express*, to report the hoaxed formation as the landing marks of a UFO. The *Daily Mirror* could then step in and expose the formation as its hoax, thus adding to the media furor surrounding the subject.

Fortunately, this devious plan backfired and the *Daily Express* never publicized the formation. Both the farmers and the reporters involved later confessed to their involvement via

local media sources. As it happened, however, BUFORA's sister group PROBE immediately recognized the formation as a hoax because the formation lacked a true spiral pattern, was composed of a perfectly circular zone of crushed and broken wheat, and had suspicious damage and footprints in clear view across the entire site. The formation was created by fixing a pole into the ground and attaching a heavy chain to this pivot. The chain was dragged through the crop by several accomplices in broad daylight. "Real" circles appear overnight with no suspicious marks and no obvious hole at the center of the affected zone. Because so few circles receive publicity and such formations have over such a long period of time from in many nations, it is virtually certain that only a few are hoaxes. The majority are caused by something else.

Helicopter downwash

A second, equally-plausible theory suggested that low-flying helicopters were creating mystery circles by the action of their downwash on mature crops. This seems to be a reasonable attempt to account for the phenomenon given the lack of suspicious tracks surrounding genuine circle formations. But it has been conclusively established that downwash cannot create such neatly-defined circle formations because downwash produces a dishlike depression in mature crops and this declines with distance. Furthermore, downwash is *not* spiral and cannot create that distinctive swirl pattern which characterizes all genuine circle formations.

Unidentified flying objects

Many readers will be familiar with the beliefs and theories of circle origin currently being promoted by *Flying Saucer Review*. These theories maintain that "paranormal UFOs" (whatever they are) create the circles, possibly by the manipulation of existing (or hypothetical) earth forces, and presumably as some kind of test on us poor, benighted ufologists. Apparently the evolving group configurations represent a code which we ufologists must unravel in some kind of cosmic treasure hunt.

Let me emphasize that as a responsible ufologist I would be perfectly happy to stand up and promote a UFO-circles link if I believed that the evidence merited such a belief. Unfortunately, *FSR*'s enthusiasm for the UFO link has more to do with wishful thinking rather than careful, methodical research.

Quite apart from the fact that it is untenable to account for one unexplained phenomenon (the circles) with another unexplained phenomenon (UFOs), *FSR*'s contributors have made no effort to search for more mundane explanations for the circles. Furthermore, there appears to be an unfounded belief that every UFO report associated with the circles by the media must be a *bona fide* unidentified and unrecognized phenomenon. *FSR*'s contributors do not seem to appreciate that at least 90 percent of their UFO reports must represent misidentifications of known phenomena. Their "tentative list of UFO sightings seemingly associated with nearby circle phenomena" reflects this view and can largely be dismissed because they have all been taken at face value and no realistic attempt has been made to find ordinary, rational explanations for the sightings.

Take, for example, their "eyewitness account" of a giant UFO creating a circle formation at Cheesefoot Head near Winchester, affecting three bystanders' cars and being photographed by the primary witness. I have the distinct impression that this witness is pulling our legs because his written report to BUFORA is wildly inconsistent with his report to *FSR* and his claims in our local newspapers. Regretfully *FSR*'s consultants have accepted this claim at face value, failing to appreciate that

newspapers in circle-forming areas have sound economic reasons for promoting the most incredible and dubious claims.

Turning to *FSR*'s remaining UFO reports, perhaps I should point out that Cheesefoot Head lies right under the northern approach to Southampton Airport (a busy, regional air traffic center) and that commercial aircraft regularly fly over the location every day. Furthermore, Hampshire contains a large military presence which is responsible for frequent military exercises and aircraft training flights. Some of these experiences probably involve the use of Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPVs) which inevitably result in UFO reports because the British public is unfamiliar with these secret military devices and their unusual configurations.

It seems reasonable to interpret the "molecules of light" report and the Collins report (*FSR*, Vol. 32, No. 6) as misidentifications of aircraft and/or RPVs. Nothing in these reports suggests the presence of unusual phenomena and they can be easily dismissed as mere lights-in-the-sky—the very weakest evidence for novel new phenomena.

Colin Andrews' report of a tiny gray disc darting behind a cloud is of dubious relevance. This sighting lasted less than two seconds and occurred several *days* after the discovery of the Headbourne Worthy circle. Joyce Bowles' CE 3 took place in November 1976—several *months* after the circles would all have been harvested. How can *FSR*'s consultants possibly justify a causal link?

Serious and responsible ufologists must learn to persuade other investigators to adopt a more critical approach to the study of UFO phenomena. Too many reports are still being promoted as inexplicable in our literature when they are, in fact, clearly identifiable. Ufologists already suffer from an enormous credibility gap without a minority of ufologists adding to our problems. Ufologists must seek explanations.

The vortex theory of circle formation

During 1987 BUFORA worked on a survey with a group of professional meteorologists at the Tornado and Storm Research Organization (TORRO) based in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire. The organization is run by Dr. Terence Meaden, a recognized expert in the field of vortex generation and a leading researcher in British meteorology.

Over the past eight years, Meaden has visited almost 100 circle formations in southern England and the evidence he has collected points conclusively towards the theory that natural vortices or "whirlwinds" are perfectly capable of forming mystery circles. His theory is supported by *eyewitness accounts* of vortices creating circles (see box on p. 8); yet *FSR* makes no mention of these accounts and dismisses his theory without serious consideration.

Meaden has suggested that under certain meteorological and topographical conditions natural *descending* vortices can remain relatively stationary and that such a column of rapidly rotating air might occasionally descend to ground level where it would flatten any pliable structures present on the surface.

Clearly a vortex would be an ideal mechanism for creating a mystery circle because air pressure would be perfectly capable of squashing arable crops flat without actually damaging the heads and stems of the crop itself. Furthermore, we might expect that a rapidly rotating column of air could create that distinctive swirl pattern characteristic of all genuine circles when it came into brief contact with standing crop, and that because no two vortices would ever be identical in shape, size or duration, no two mystery circles could ever be precisely identical.

It seems likely that a rapidly rotating column of air would never remain perfectly motionless during its short lifetime. Variations in the angular momentum of the vortex would force the column to migrate about a central point, scouring out an elliptical zone several times the size of the vortex itself. In moving about this way, the vortex would automatically lay the crop flat in one direction but then subsequently sweep the upper layers of the zone into different and highly divergent directions as the column moved backwards in the opposite direction. This accounts for the complex layering in many circles, particularly close to the center of the circle where most movement will have taken place.

The off-centered spiral center will be defined at random as the dying vortex swings back across the zone of activity like a pendulum.

It is an established fact that a high proportion of mystery circles appear close to the bases of steeply inclined hillslopes. This suggests that natural descending vortices can be triggered by lone hills (e.g. at Cley Hill, Warminster) and my high escarpments (e.g. at Westbury), because air currents flowing over the top of these features would automatically roll over into eddies on the leeslope of the hill and these eddies would form vertical "standing waves" providing that the pressure wind was less than 16 km/hour.

"Trailing vortices" have been described extensively in the established meteorological literature (e.g. on the leeslope of the Rock of Gibralter) so it should not surprise us that vortices should be created by typographical features or that mystery circles tend to cluster about those same features. The coincidence cannot be accidental. The existence of the outer rings in some formations confirms their vortex origin because some vortices are known to be surrounded by tiny sheaths of (contra rotating) air surrounding the vortex. William Corliss, the chronicler of natural anomalies, cites several accounts of waterspouts with (up to three) outer sheaths, all positioned very closely to the vortex funnel itself. Corliss quotes one account in which these sheaths appear to pulsate like a live animal. Clearly this accounts for the sinuating, wavelike pattern that is found in all the outer rings.

Furthermore, vortices often exert a suction effect due to the pressure gradient within their funnels. This suggests that the forces operating within a circle-forming vortex can be extremely complicated and that it should not surprise us to find complex patterns within the affected zone (e.g. the twisting together of stems into knots).

Reading through the established meteorological literature on vortices, I have been struck by the never-ending supply of unusual abilities ascribed to these fascinating phenomena. Intuitively I believe that the role of the vortex in UFO events has been vastly underestimated and that more attention needs to

be paid by ufologists to these phenomena.

The ufologists' dilemma

Now it would be very easy for me to fill the remainder of this article extensively arguing my case for the Vortex Theory of Circle Formation. Although I believe explicitly that the theory must be correct, I wish to concentrate as well on the wider issues involved in this debate and leave the interpretation of the evidence to you. (After all, I'm only human; I could be wrong!) These issues are:

• How should we as responsible ufologists behave when we are presented with a phenomenon that closely matches our preconceived concept of the exotic/alien UFO?

• What value should we place on evidence produced by the media when we know from experience that the media have no interest in the objectivity of their stories and when some reporters are known to be hoaxing circle formations?

• Can ufologists ever have the right to dismiss existing scientific knowledge simply because this knowledge does not support an exotic interpretation of our data? and

• How should ufologists be investigating anomalous phenomena in a rigorous, responsible manner?

I think that I should begin by explaining that I too was present at the "Open Meeting" described in *FSR* (Vol. 31, No. 5) to discuss the circles mystery. At that time (October 1985) my understanding of the phenomenon was limited and, inevitably, based almost entirely on the articles which had been appearing in *FSR*. My initial reaction to the phenomenon was that *all* the circles must be hoaxes (which *FSR* recorded), even though I was unaware of the *proven hoaxes* described earlier in this article.

My reaction at this time was no more than a gut feeling that these circles were just too similar to the stereotyped UFO to be genuine. Yet every other ufologist present at the meeting smiled benevolently and speculated about the shape of the UFOs which were creating the circles! Nobody mentioned the proven hoaxes or study by a respected scientist of the phenomenon.

Since my support for the Vortex Theory has become public knowledge I have discovered only too painfully how unreasonably some ufologists behave. They view me as a *threat* to their fantasy world of aliens and cover-ups and they treat me like an uninvited guest at the ufologists' party.

FSR's "honored consultants" describe me as a "stubborn believer" in the "Tornado and Storm Theory" (they don't even know the *name* of the theory) and they resort to emotive and insulting phrases ("It's a sad, sad fact...") when they refer to me. These ufologists forget that for over a year I publicly criticized the theory and indeed carried out a detailed survey to test its viability (see below).

Clearly a more constructive approach by these "consultants" (who of course have no meteorological training whatever) would have been for them to:

(a) fully acquaint themselves with the Vortex Theory and its supporting evidence;

(b) describe the Theory as completely as possible to other meteorologists and allow *them* to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses;

(c) go out into the real world and *test* the Theory using established scientific procedures; and

(d) discuss their findings as fully as possible in the UFO literature without recourse to irrelevant, insulting comments.

I was particularly disturbed to see that one correspondent believed that a fair method of allowing other meteorologists to assess the theory was to simply send *photographs* of circles to weather centers. How unfair. Ufologists must learn that no theoretical model ever became water-tight overnight and that whatever the limitations of the current theory our knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon is being updated and improved.

I too began my interest in ufology with *FSR*, then under the editorship of Charles Bowen. It saddens me to see how *FSR*'s current editor has dragged ufology back into the Dark Ages with his paranoid and uncritical approach to our subject. Its contributors clearly have no concept of the damage they inflict on our credibility or the risks they run by accepting UFO reports at face value.

The BUFORA/TORRO survey

The British UFO Research Association is no longer satisfied with a passive approach to the scientific study of anomalies. We were concerned with the lack of meaningful data relating to the circles mystery and we decided to collect data relating to the beliefs of the landowners concerned, the frequency of the formations and the *types* of formations which were appearing. We were particularly concerned with the way that every summer the circle formations appeared to evolve into ever more complex patterns. Our suspicion was that the long established single circles were vortex-related while the more complicated formations were hoaxes (mainly because most of them had only begun to be publicized once the media decided that the circles were news).

BUFORA obtained financial support from the Tornado and Storm Research Organization to carry out a sample survey of cereal farms in Hampshire during 1987 (which I carried out). We received 90 valid replies from which the following conclusions were based:

(1) There was virtually no support for the belief that UFOs were creating circles among the landowners. Only three of the 90 respondents agreed with this notion. Significantly higher proportions of the respondents agreed with Hoaxing and the Weather as likely explanations for the phenomenon.

(2) There was no significant difference between the proportion of respondents who agreed with Hoaxing and the proportion of respondents who agreed with the Weather as likely causes.

(3) No consensus of opinion existed among the landowners as to the cause of the phenomenon. High proportions of landowners preferred not to respond to the question regarding their beliefs.

(4) The 90 respondents produced accounts of 19 circle formations on 11 holdings. Thirteen of these formations (68 percent) were unknown prior to the survey and two of the seven reported formation *types* which were previously unknown.

(5) Only two of the 19 formations (11 percent) had ever received media publicity, thus confirming that the true number of formations actually appearing must be far higher than was previously thought.

(6) A *different* nonrandom distribution of formation types was discovered compared with that previously known. This confirmed that media bias to report only the more exciting formation types was distorting our perception of the phenomenon (i.e., the evolving formation types were not a true characteristic of the phenomenon).

(7) The survey predicted that on average a circle-forming event occurs once every 35,000 hectares per year. This implies that over 400 causal mechanisms (e.g. vortices) are occurring every year in England and Wales alone.

Significantly, no eyewitness accounts of UFOs creating circles were produced by the survey. All of the survey results were consistent with the hypothesis that a rare natural phenomenon was responsible for the mystery of the circles.

Conclusions

It would be easy to be too dogmatic about the vortex theory of circle formation and to accept it without appreciating its limitations (natural descending vortices, it must be noted, are as yet unrecognized by meteorologists); but after three years of coordinated research with the Tornado and Storm Research Organization I am convinced that this theory is the most realistic and plausible yet proposed. In my involvement with this phenomenon I have seen nothing that suggests the vortex theory is incorrect. Until evidence to the contrary is produced, the theory must be taken seriously.

When professional meteorologists tell us that vortices can create circles and when they present us with eyewitness accounts of this occurring, who are we to tell them they are wrong and why should scientists then take our other claims any more seriously? Sadly, some ufologists have simply not learned the lessons of the past 40 years.

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The Spectrum of UFO Research.....$12.80 postpaid.

Eyewitness accounts of vortices creating circles

(1) On July 2, 1984, Melvyn Bell of Spiers Piece, Keevil, Wiltshire, who lives a couple of kilometers from Bratton village, recounted to Dr. Meaden his observation of a whirlwind which he watched flattening wheat into a circle toward dusk in the summer of 1983.

The date was late July or early August, and the place was a dry valley running from west to east on Littleton Down which was a dry valley running from west to east on Littleton Down, below the Great Cheverill Hill. Bell was horse-riding at the time and stopped when he became aware of a whirlwind starting up in the field adjacent to the bridleway. Fifty to 60 meters away he could see dust, dirt and other light debris spiraling into the air, and in a matter of only a few seconds a 10-12-meter-diameter circle was flattened out in the wheat as he watched. At that distance he was not aware of any accompanying noise.

***The Journal of Meteorology*, Vol. 10, No. 97 (March 1985) pp. 77-78.**

(2) "One evening there were about 50 of us sky-watching along the Salisbury Road. Suddenly, the grass began to sway before our eyes and laid itself flat in a clockwise spiral, just like the opening of a lady's fan. A perfect circle was completed in less than half a minute, all the time accompanied by a high-pitched humming sound. It was still there the next day."

Arthur Shuttlewood, *NOW!* United Kingdom, August, 29, 1980. (Reprinted from the *Journal of Meteorology*, Vol. 9, No. 89 May/June 1984 p. 141.)

Abductions: the fantasy-prone-personality hypothesis

by Keith Basterfield and Robert E. Bartholomew

Keith Basterfield, cofounder of the Australian Center for UFO Studies, is author of *Close Encounters of an Australian Kind: The Image Hypothesis* (1981). Robert E. Bartholomew, an American, is pursuing graduate studies in sociology at the Flinders University of South Australia.

In an article in the July/August 1987 issue of *IUR*, D. Scott Rogo lists three hypotheses to account for UFO abductions (Rogo, 1987,11): the Lawson birth-fantasy theory (Lawson, 1982a, 1982b); Hopkins' genetic-experimentation-by-aliens theory (Hopkins, 1987, 1981); and Rogo's own "objectified-dream" hypothesis (Rogo, 1987).

Lawson's theory is psychologically based, Hopkins prefers visitations by physically real aliens, while Rogo prefers an objective/subjective approach.

Rogo's hypothesis contends that "the UFO phenomenon is brought into play by the specific mind or unconscious of the primary witness, perhaps in cooperation with an x-intelligence inherently linked to human life. The abduction is a real physical event, but it reflects concerns or traumas buried within the subject's unconscious" (Rogo, 1987,11).

Jenny Randles' latest work *Abduction* (Randles, 1988) takes a different approach from the above hypotheses, suggesting that certain people become "open" to alien contact. These physically real, but not yet visiting aliens, use the minds of certain humans to induce the abduction experience. An abduction is a vision projected into the mind. As to a reason why aliens should be doing this, Randles suggests it is to pass on messages to us or to extract data from us.

All three theories seek to explain a number of factors which abduction studies have revealed.

(1) Abduction events appear partly objective and partly subjective (Bullard 1987).

(2) Only certain people are known to have these experiences. Despite an increasing number of abductees it is not to be a universal event.

(3) The basic storyline of a large number of abductions is fairly consistent (Bullard, 1987) and is suspiciously reflective of the science fiction and cultural expectation of the time period in which the experience is reported (Bartholomew, 1988).

(4) The events can occur to several people at the one time.

(5) The events appear physically real to the individuals concerned.

(6) The abduction experience seems part of a lifelong process, not an isolated instance (Hopkins, 1987).

How do the various hypotheses address these constants? We shall not concern ourselves with Lawson's theory. It has fallen into disfavor and so will not be included further in this analysis (Rogo, 1985).

Constant One

Hopkins: Events are physically real but are partially or fully blocked by aliens inducing amnesia (Hopkins, 1981, 229). Hence recollections are sometimes dreamlike or hazy.

Rogo: Our minds are used to generate the events but these "projections" materialize in real space and interact with us.

Randles: An abduction is a vision projected into the mind of a human. It is perceived as real.

Constant Two

Hopkins: Aliens are selecting people to abduct.

Rogo: Abductions happen to very special people at special times in their lives.

Randles: An abduction occurs to a creatively visual person, not just anyone.

Constant Three

Hopkins: Consistent physically real aliens, mainly of two groups, are visiting the earth. Individual variations occur because events happen to different people.

Rogo: To our reading Rogo says that the theme comes from an "x" intelligence and an individual's personality provides small variations.

Randles: Visions follow a general theme transmitted by the aliens but variations are due to the individual's personality.

Constant Four

Hopkins: Physically real aliens wish to conduct genetic experiments. They sometimes abduct groups of people.

Rogo: The event is brought into play by the mind of the primary witness. These entities are materialized into the real world and therefore visible to other people.

Randles: Doesn't seem to address this in *Abduction*.

Constant Five

Hopkins: The event is physically real in our space and time.

Rogo: The abduction is a real physical event.

Randles: Visions are projections into the minds of certain

people and are indistinguishable from an event perceived through normal sense channels.

Constant Six

Hopkins: Aliens are following the life history of some individuals.

Rogo: Admits his theory can't account for childhood abductions or lifelong contacts.

Randles: Doesn't seem to address this issue.

Out of the three hypotheses it can be seen that both Rogo's and Randles' theories contain some difficulties. The only one that sails through all constant factors is the straightforward extraterrestrial hypothesis expounded by Hopkins (among others).

But one extremely important element has yet to be explored. As attested by a number of respected researchers (Evans, 1983, 49; Schwarz, 1983; Harder, in Fuller, 1980,354; Sprinkle in Fuller, 1980, 359) there is reportedly a correlation between being a UFO abductee/contactee and possession of what is termed paranormal ability, including telepathy, precognition and out-of-body experiences (OBEs). Hopkins is silent on this point; yet it is proclaimed as almost a universal finding for abductees (Randles, 1988, 208).

Why, for instance, do all parties in multiple-percipient cases experience paranormal events (beyond that expected by chance)? For example in the 1976 Kentucky abduction case, Louise Smith was reported to have a sense of precognition, Mona Stafford to have psychic abilities and Elaine Thomas to have undergone an OBE (Gansberg 1980, 134). The 1975 Maine abduction involved two men, P. and W. The first reportedly possessed precognition before the event and W. had psychic experiences and saw an ashtray levitate. There were reportedly telepathic, precognitive and poltergeist involvements (Schwarz, 1983, 220 & 232). In the English case of the Day family both percipients claimed to have become psychic (Randles, 1988, 80).

In order to address our six factors we believe a new hypothesis needs to be advanced, one that contains elements of previous ideas.

UFO contacts/abductions (1) are events generated within the minds of fantasy-prone individuals (2) (without recourse to any external agency). They appear to be a real physical event to the individuals concerned. (3) Physical effects may occur to the percipients. (4) If other fantasy-prone personalities are also present, the experience may be shared by them. (5)

The following remarks elaborate on the above.

(1) We do not see why there is a need to separate persons claiming contacts from those claiming abductions. Those supporting the ETH seem to have always separated them into these two categories. Both Rogo's and Randles' theories would seem to be able to cover both sets of people.

(2) Psychologists (Lynn and Rhue, 1986; Myers and Austrin, 1985; Wilson and Barber, 1983) have since 1981 identified a class of the population whom they have labelled fantasy-prone personalities (FPP). These people (estimated as high as four percent of the population) show a cluster of some 14 characteristics not shared by any other sub-group of the population:

1. They are excellent hypnotic subjects.
2. As children they lived in make-believe worlds most of the time.
3. As children they believed in fairies.
4. They had imaginary companions.
5. They learned during childhood to be secretive about their fantasy life.
6. As adults they spend a large amount of their time fantasizing.
7. They have shared their fantasy life with no one.
8. They regard themselves as psychic, reporting telepathy and precognition.
9. They experience OBEs (above normal population levels).
10. They feel they have the ability to heal.
11. They report apparitions.
12. They frequently experience hypnagogic imagery.
13. They are socially aware, normal, healthy individuals.
14. They experience vivid dreams.

Note the inclusion of a number of paranormal events. A FPP would fit Randles' creatively visual person well, but not Rogo's hypothesis since he expects his abductees to be resolving conflict. A FPP individual, indistinguishable from anyone else in the population, apart from the cluster of characteristics listed above.

(3) Just because these events *seem* to be real (real is here meant as shared by us all) doesn't mean they are real. Persons experiencing lucid dreams, OBEs, near-death experiences and hypnagogic imagery all say their experiences were real to them. Today psychologists believe such things as OBEs to have a psychological base (Irwin, 1985;Blackmore, 1982). Dreams are taken to be just that, generated within the human mind.

(4) Hopkins makes much of the finding of physical marks on the bodies of his abductees. Randles counters this with the practical suggestion that Hopkins should conduct a random sample of people to see if marks of this kind would turn up due to chance. Neither discusses medical evidence that the human mind is capable of generating markings or effects on the human body.

Unexplained blood flows from hands, a foot and forehead have been witnessed (Early and Lifschutz, 1974). Scars from abuse as a child bled in the presence of one doctor (Lifschutz, 1957). An Army officer's phantom rope weal marks have been observed and photographed by another medical practitioner (Moody, 1948, 1946). Dizzyness, nausea, eye/skin irritation, rashes, blurred vision, breathing difficulties and sleepiness are all common psychosomatic reactions well diagnosed within the medical profession (Colligen, Tennebaker, and Murphy, 1982,36-40; Kerckhoff & Back, 1968).

(6) We would suggest that research be conducted on *all* percipients in a multiple case. We suspect that we will find they were all FPP. How would they all share a common experience? We would speculate that if we were able to catch multiple witnesses "in act" we would find them all in an altered

state of consciousness generating an abduction between them. If this seems an extraordinary claim, then read the Puddy abduction (Randles 1988, 126). We suspect if UFO investigators Paul Norman and Judith Magee had been FPP (they were present with Mrs. Puddy when she related what appears to be an abduction) then we could have had a multiple-abduction report.

How does the FPP hypothesis measure up against our six factors? Let's examine these factors.

(1) The event is generated within the human mind. It appears "real" because some of the brain's neural inputs from the normal five senses are also used when generating imagery/ fantasy.

(2) The FPP certainly explains why only select people are involved.

(3) The consistent storyline under this hypothesis revolves around the fact that abductions by otherworld entities are both older than the UFO-abduction stories and can be traced back to pre-biblical times (Bartholomew 1988; Bullard 1982). It has been updated in abduction accounts. Even small details common to abduction accounts are explainable when the mechanism of cryptoamnesia is raised. Cryptoamnesia has been shown to be the responsible agent for the recollection of an entire story when the account came from a consciously forgotten reading of a book at a much earlier age.

There is probably no Westerner who has not been exposed in some way to a report of an abduction story, now that so much material is available on the subject.

(4) As suggested earlier we believe all multiple percipients will be found to be FPP thus explaining how several persons people can be involved.

An examination of 16 multiple percipient cases reveals that the primary percipient is always an excellent hypnotic subject providing the most detailed scenario out of the group involved. Studies of excellent hypnotic subjects reveal a positive correlation between hypnotic susceptibility and the "autokinetic movement effect" in ambiguous environments (Wallace, 1980, 386). Recall that most cases of abductions occur at night in ambiguous environments. UFO researchers have been searching for the initial mechanism that causes an abduction case to emerge, say from an observation of a scintillating star. This would appear a likely cause that has a firm base in social psychology.

(5) FPP is a life-long process which commences in childhood with fantasies. An interesting comment by Lorenzen (in Fuller, 1980, 325) is that most abductees studied as of that date tell of a traumatic childhood, involving physical abuse. Precisely what psychologists Rhue and Lynn established for FPP (Rhue and Lynn, 1987).

The FPP hypothesis thus seems to be able to explain all of the six critical factors plus a seventh (paranormal episodes). This latter factor doesn't seem to fit in with Hopkins' theory. It is also considered that there are three more failures in the Hopkins scenario:

(1) No physical evidence exists other than transient physiological episodes or body scars. No one has produced an advanced technological artifact that hasn't vanished before analysis. The speculated implants in human brains have not yet been confirmed.

(2) No "partial" abductions exist. For example, we have no independent percipients driving along a road and reporting observing a kidnapping. With the reported hundreds (Hopkins believes thousands), statistically, someone should be an independent observer to an abduction.

(3) Hopkins' theory has no response to cases where people are observed during abductions to be physically present in an altered state of consciousness, e.g. Sutherland or Puddy cases (Randles, 1988, 197 & 126).

The debate is open.

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MJ-12 debunking fiasco

by Stanton T. Friedman

Stanton T. Friedman, an American nuclear physicist who lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, has been interested in the UFO phenomenon for 30 years. A well-known lecturer on the subject, he has devoted the past few years to an intensive investigation of the U.S. government's role in the UFO story. He works professionally as an industrial science consultant.

Philip J. Klass has been a persistent debunker of UFOs for two decades. Because he is a professional writer for a respected Washington magazine, *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, his debunking sounds legitimate and receives far more acceptance than it deserves from the news media. Unfortunately, when carefully compared with the evidence, his explanations collapse. Klass has started from two false premises. The first is that all UFO sightings have prosaic explanations. The second is that there cannot be a cover-up of UFO data by the U.S. or any other government. To buttress his case, he employs selective choice of data, positive and negative name-calling and misrepresentation, as I have noted elsewhere.[1,2]

Since mid-1987, Klass has been attacking the TOP SECRET/EYES ONLY MJ-1 briefing document (November 18, 1952), allegedly prepared for President-elect Eisenhower, the TOP SECRET accompanying executive order (Truman-Forrestal memo of September 24, 1947) putting MJ-12 in place and the supporting TOP SECRET Cutler-Twining memo (July 14, 1954). An error-filled press release[3] from the self-anointed Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) was widely distributed, as have been numerous "White Papers" and, more recently, two articles[4,5] in the CSICOP Bible *The Skeptical Inquirer* (SI).

On occasion Klass has been willing to acknowledge error. For example, in a radio station discussion with me in June 1987, he claimed that Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter (RHH) could not have been the officer who briefed Eisenhower (as the document alleges) because he went on sea duty in 1950 in Korea and didn't get back until 1956. Later he claimed that RHH hadn't even been in Washington during the 1946-1950 era.[11] On the latter point he admitted—in a rare concession—that he had misspoken in the heat of battle. I pointed out that not only was RHH head of the CIA in Washington from September 1947 through October 1950 but he had returned to New York to head the Brooklyn Navy Yard in September 1951 and then in June 1952 became the head of the Third Naval District (headquartered in New York). In his SI piece Klass almost gets it right by saying RHH became head of the Third Naval district in 1951. At least he admits RHH wasn't working far from Washington.

When all else fails, Klass turns psychic—strange for an individual who is so prominent in the virulently antipsychic CSICOP. He "knows" what people were thinking, and knows what they would have written, even though he is unable to provide documented evidence to support his paranormal perceptions. The subtitle of Klass' first SI article reads, "Numerous flaws and inconsistencies reveal that 'top secret' papers, including one allegedly found in the National Archives, are fraudulent." The fact is, as we shall see, that it is Klass' arguments that are loaded with flaws and inconsistencies. That his arguments do not withstand scrutiny, however, does *not* prove the documents are legitimate. At this stage, when we consider the flimsiness of the critics' arguments along with the positive findings about the internal information in the documents (ignored by the debunkers), it is safe to say that the documents, if they turn out not to be genuine, at least are far better frauds than any of us on the outside could have hatched.

In his *Skeptical Inquirer* article[4] Klass raises two questions about the roll of 35 mm film on which the briefing and the Truman-Forrestal memo (Attachment A of the briefing) were located: "Why would the film be sent to [Jaime] Shandera, who has never published any papers on UFOs or crashed saucers and does not even consider himself a ufologist? How could the sender of the 35 mm film even know that Shandera and [Bill] Moore were friends and that the contents would find their way to Moore?" This seems to echo a concern of Barry Greenwood in an article in *Just Cause*[6]. The answer is simple: Shandera, Moore and I worked together on a UFO movie in 1980. I moved to New Brunswick several months later. After many months, Moore resumed his association with Shandera and, with permission from contacts within the cover-up, shared information received from them. These contacts (now numbering 10 in all) knew very well that the two were working together and keeping me informed in person and by phone. In fact, Shandera has spent far more time at various archives than has Klass, even though Klass lives in Washington not very far from the National Archives or the Library of Congress Manuscript Division (LCMD) where we long ago found many useful documents.

Klass goes on to claim that Shandera must have had "psychic powers" because Shandera called Moore prior to processing the film. More nonsense. There had been cryptic postcards and other communications from inside sources hinting of important developments to come. Even the postmark might be a connection with inside sources. One wonders how often Klass receives an undeveloped roll of film in the mail.

Klass claims that "it would have been more logical for Ike to be briefed by the chairman of MJ-12, who had remained in the U.S. close to the Committee's activities. Presumably this would have been Dr. Bush." No explanation is offered for these presumptions. Investigation has established that Ike was indeed briefed in the Pentagon vault by various members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on November 18, 1952. Bush could have been present or brought in. But a briefing to a general from an admiral or another general seems far more probable, though Bush knew Ike. Even more interesting is the fact that Gen. Twining was one of the briefers that day, as the Vice-Chief of Staff of the USAF and the only Second-in-Command listed in the newspaper article[7]. The controversial briefing paper, called "preliminary," lists seven more attachments besides the Truman-Forrestal memo but does not include them. I certainly would like to see them.

Klass then comes to what he describes as "the most revealing substantive anomaly," the format used to write dates. Here we can check on the adequacy of his research. His complaint is that the format "18 November, 1952" (note what Klass calls "the unnecessary comma") and 01 August, 1950, with the zero preceding a single-digit date (according to Klass), provides an erroneous mixture of civil and military formats. Klass claims that the zero was not used to precede a single digit date until very recent years, asserting, "Examination of numerous military and CIA documents written during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s shows the *standard* date format was to write: 1 August 1950." He then notes, as he has in many letters, that Moore uses the same format for dates in his letters since 1983. Obviously by Klassical reasoning the document with its consistent "wrong" date format must have been forged by Moore.

I have no idea how many documents Klass checked (probably very few) but I was able to find many with the "wrong" date format. One, for example, was a letter from RHH himself. Others show up (xeroxed, *not* retyped) in *Above Top Secret* (p. 446), in the *Alsos Mission* (pp. 84, 98) and perhaps most damningly in a 1954 document JANAP 146 (C) as located by Bill Moore. Two different sources having far more military background (WWII) than Klass, Moore, Shandera or I have said this to Tim Good:

> 1. You raise the query that the prefix "0" as in "02 July 1947" was not used until modern computer technology was developed. I beg most strongly to differ. Certainly my experience in wartime in the Navy was that the "0" was a vital prefix whether in the date as in "02 July" or the hour as in "0300." I should think such methods were still used in NATO.
>
> 2. NATO documents always used the 0 in front of single date figures in my day, but I do not know when it started.

A military directive from 1954, JANAP 1461(C), says the following:

> (6) The date and time of the sighting are expressed by the use of six digits and the time zone suffix. The first two digits denote the date, the second two digits denote the minutes of the hour. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) must be used in all instances, and shall be indicated by the use of GMT or by the addition of Z to the date time group....

The day of the month in the example immediately following is rendered as "07."

In addition, there are numerous examples of the MJ-12 date format in Ewen Montague's fascinating book *The Man Who Never Was* (1953), an excellent account of how disinformation was used to fool the Germans during World War II.

In short, *nothing* about the date format suggests the document is a fraud. Consider, too, that RHH was an attache in France prior to 1947 and that the French and NATO date formats apparently are also, if we are to take Klass seriously, "erroneous."

Klass moves to an even weaker argument than his date-format one. He acknowledges that the signature on the Truman-Forrestal memo *is* genuine, but that the content is not, having been placed there by a forger's Xerox machine. In his CSICOP press release Klass referred to the "memo" as a "letter" nine times so that he could state that its format was unlike that of "genuine" Truman "letters." For example, "the counterfeiter forgot to type Forrestal's name, title, and address in the lower left portion of the page and used 'Dear Secretary Forrestal' instead of Truman's typical 'My Dear Secretary.'" Apparently in response to my annotations on the press releases pointing out that a memorandum is *not* a letter and does not have the same format, Klass refrains from using the term "letter" in his SI piece; yet he claims that "the format differs significantly from that used by the president's secretary in other memoranda written to Forrestal, and others during the same period." In his SI article Klass provides no examples. But he does provide three in a White Paper. At least he shows the date and salutations. Interestingly enough, he does not *show* the heading, the security markings, the sign off, or the contents.

Significantly, perhaps, although the SI article uses a full page to show date formats, no space is given to the memo formats. In his letter to me of January 8, 1988, Klass states that "the three authentic memoranda use the same format." This statement is false, as anyone with eyes can determine simply by reading the examples Klass offers. There are three different addresses: "Members of the Cabinet," "James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense," and "Secretary of Defense." One has MEMORANDUM FOR and FROM all in capital letters. Two use upper and lower case. Perhaps equally important, none of these were executive orders, as the Truman-Forrestal memo of September 24, 1947, was referred to in the briefing text and clearly is, since it contains the expression "you are hereby authorized to proceed" from the Chief Executive. All are only three sentences long (as the TF memo); none are on White House stationery; none are signed though each is initialled H.S.T.; none are classified. Each would be considered a note. Two are single-spaced; one is double-spaced. One has the first word of each brief paragraph indented; two do not. One may well have been typed on the same typewriter as the September 24, 1947, memo.

Klass' arguments provide no basis for charges of fraud, or forgery, or counterfeit. Having looked at thousands of documents, I can safely say inconsistency is the rule rather than the exception. This is not surprising since major offices such as the

White House and the NSC have many secretaries and many different typewriters. In many offices certain typewriters are used only for unclassified typing while others are used only for classified typing. Ribbons on typewriters outside a vault must be either stored in a vault overnight or destroyed.

For a stickler for date format, Klass curiously fails to mention that the September 24, 1947, memo has a period after the date, which none of the others do. I called his attention long ago to this detail because essentially all letters from Vannevar Bush have a period after the date. I also noted to him that according to the Truman Library, September 24, 1947, was the *only* date between May 31 and December 1947 when Bush met with Truman, that Forrestal was also present, and that according to Forrestal's papers, Bush and Forrestal had met together the half hour preceding their meeting with Truman. Klass unsurprisingly mentions none of this. It would not have been unusual for Bush and Forrestal, who had known each very well for years during and after the war, even playing tennis on occasion, to have prepared a draft memo for the record and then typed, or had it typed, at the White House. A three-sentence EYES ONLY memo may very well *not* have been typed by a secretary. Truman himself had taken typing as part of a business course (he never went to college) many years earlier.

In his SI article Klass psychically and confidently suggests that Truman would have written a much more straightforward letter, with two "hells" in it, to boot. I have looked at many letters and memos from Truman during my three visits to the Truman Library (most recently on February 22-23, 1988) and other archives and found nothing to support Klass' assertion. Equally absurd is Klass' noting only that Bush was "President of the Carnegie Foundation." He was, indeed, but much more important, he had been wartime head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) which was in charge of the Manhattan Project (developing atomic bombs), the proximity fuse, radar and about 90 other scientific projects to aid the military. Bush was the first chairman of the post-war successor to the OSRD, the Joint Research and Development Board, on the War Council post-war, and on numerous other committees. He was certainly the most powerful scientist-engineer in the United States even having served as chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) prewar and as a member during and after the war. He was the common factor in the several organizations mentioned by alleged MJ-12 member Gen. Twining in his important (but classified only SECRET) letter about UFOs dated, interestingly enough, September 23, 1947, one day *before* the Truman Executive order about MJ-12.

Klass attacks Moore for stating, "If I was going to pick a panel at that time capable of dealing with a crashed UFO, I would certainly want to consider [those on] the list." Klass takes this remark out of context and says, "In other words, the members of MJ-12 were persons whom Moore himself would probably have selected for such a committee." The simple fact of the matter is that Moore, Shandera, and I had already picked up on all the names on the list prior to receipt of the film (except for Dr. Donald Menzel) as a result of the many days spent in historical archival research begun a decade ago because of the Roswell incident. We looked at appointment calendars, at correspondence files, at the members of the various organizations noted in the Twining memo, at simple facts such as the special addition in 1948 to the NACA (headed by alleged MJ-12 member Jerome Hunsaker) of Detlev Bronk, another alleged MJ-12 member. We had noted who was where in early July 1947 when the Roswell incident occurred. We had noted that Twining had had to cancel a trip which had long been planned to see a new Boeing airplane in order to take a trip to New Mexico. Unlike Klass, even now, we were doing our homework.

Klass claims, "Moore demonstrated remarkable psychic abilities in his 1982 MUFON paper by stating that Bush would be the logical choice for an assignment to set up a Top Secret project dealing with a crashed UFO." As Klass either knows or should have known, a TOP SECRET Canadian memo of November 21, 1950, received by me in the late 1970s from Canadian researcher Scott Foster, included this (italics added):

> I made discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information [about flying saucers]:
>
> a. The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher than the H-bomb.
>
> b. Flying saucers exist.
>
> c. Their *modus operandi* is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by *Doctor Vannevar Bush.*
>
> d. The entire matter is considered by the United States Authorities to be of tremendous significance.

Klass viciously attacked the author of this item, the late Canadian engineer W.B. Smith, as "crazy" in a TV debate with me. Other classified correspondence between Smith and the Canadian Embassy and military attache also refers to Bush. This memo is what got me started down the historical trail after Bush and cohorts prior to 1980. In earlier correspondence, it is amusing to note, Klass alluded to George Bush, apparently knowing nothing about Van Bush.

Klass prattles on as to what Moore would have done with the documents, should "logically" have done, or didn't do (such as sending me a complete copy of the very "hot" briefing document as if I could do nothing without a full copy). In fact, it was knowing that Menzel's name was on the MJ-12 list that both made us wary of any publicity and got me launched on an extensive investigation of the shocking possibility that archdebunker Menzel was part of Bush's small group. My efforts finally hit paydirt with very surprising findings that Menzel, whom I strongly disliked during his lifetime but now respect, had a longer continuous association with the supersecret National Security Agency than any other person, had a TOP SECRET ULTRA security clearance, had done classified work for the CIA and numerous other organizations, had close connections with Bush and other members of MJ-12 and, in short, led a double life and definitely belonged on MJ-12.

It turns out Menzel was a world-class expert on cryptanalysis, had learned a new symbolic language (Japanese), had written science fiction and many popular newspaper articles

and was certainly an obvious choice for review of the strange symbols found on the Roswell wreckage as noted in Moore's and my research *long before* the MJ-12 film showed up. He was also the obvious choice for disinformation, a role he clearly filled with relish.[9,10,11]

Klass quotes various tidbits from a National Archives report on the Cutler-Twining memo including items from the Eisenhower Library staff. Because these comments please him, he makes no attempt to determine their accuracy. I have dealt with these at length elsewhere[12] but will note here that, for example, Klass makes much of the fact that Cutler was out of the country when the CT memo was written. He does not mention to James Lay and J. Patrick Coyne (referred to, inaccurately, as Cutler's "subordinates") instructing them (italics added) to "Keep things moving *out* of my basket." There is no signature on the CT memo or even a symbolic /s/ next to the name clearly indicating that Cutler had not signed the original.

Lay was hardly just a Cutler subordinate. He was the assistant to Sidney Souers (alleged MJ-12 member) while Souers served as the first Executive Secretary of the National Security Council 1947-1950. Souers had been replaced in 1946 first by Hoyt Vandenberg (also MJ-12) as head of the Central Intelligence Group and then by Vandenberg's successor MJ-12 man Hillenkoetter as head of the renamed Central Intelligence Agency. Lay replaced Souers at the powerful position (roughly cabinet level) of Executive Secretary of NSC in 1950 and continued on in that role until the 1960s. He actually ran the NSC and its meetings and got copies of all of the Cutler memos. Twining was also a holdover from the Truman era. Surely Lay would have the authority to pump out a quick classified administrative memo concerning details of an already scheduled meeting to be held two days later, on Ike's instructions. I noted during my February 26-27, 1988, visit to the Eisenhower Library that Ike met with Lay off-the-record the afternoon of July 14, 1954—the date of the CT memo. Usually their frequent meetings were *on* the record. I also noted that many carbons of Cutler memos were on unwatermarked onionskin contrary to a claim by the library that they were always on onionskin with an Eagle watermark.

Klass nowhere notes that the format and wording of the CT memo closely match those of other TOP SECRET CT memos found years earlier at the Library of Congress in Twining's correspondence files. He fails to mention that the Eisenhower Library had *not* found these two or a memo from Menzel, and says nothing about the shortcomings of the library's treatment of the NSC material which make its comments about *all* Cutler memos meaningless. For example, library personnel had not searched 250,000 pages of NSC files covering the Eisenhower era and certainly (for several years) heavily involving Cutler.

Klass closes with quotations with great glee from *Just Cause* newsletter editor Barry Greenwood's declaration that the MJ-12 papers constitute "a grand deception and consequently a giant black eye on the face of ufology." Unfortunately, Greenwood's investigation was as superficial as his judgment was rushed.

Of special interest to those with a serious scientific, journalistic or historical interest in MJ-12 are some of the things Klass *doesn't* discuss as well as some he does mention elsewhere but now admits he was wrong about. He does mention *The Roswell Incident* by name in the SI article, but not in the CSICOP press release, yet neglects to acknowledge the several papers about Roswell[13-16] published since *The Roswell Incident*. He does not inform his readers that Moore and I have talked with more than 90 persons connected in some way with Roswell, including five who saw the actual symbols on the wreckage, and that he talked with none and made 22 factual mistakes in his attack on Roswell[17] as noted by me.[2] Klass has nothing to say about the significance of the November 18, 1952, and September 24, 1947, dates or of the interrelationships of the various members of MJ-12. He does correct his earlier press-release comment (of course without mentioning it) that MJ-12 consisted of 12 scientists apparently in response to my correction that it was five scientists and seven military and intelligence people.

This SI article doesn't contain Klass' off-the-wall claim that the memo "erroneously" refers to RHH as "Roscoe," apparently on the basis of the fact that most RHH memos have a typed close of R.H. Hillenkoetter. The Truman Library appointment files clearly refer to RHH as Admiral *Roscoe* H. Two of the four RHH letters I have (written by him) have hand signatures "Roscoe." Klass also doesn't mention another bizarre attempt to discredit Moore by claiming that both Moore and the briefing erroneously spell Air Materiel Command rather than Material. Two minutes' worth of checking in any of many books would have shown him that both Moore and the briefing correctly spelled Materiel.

Yet to be explained, of course, is how any hoaxer could have known that Menzel would pass muster, that dates were special, and so on, when certainly no one I know had this information before the film was received or the CT memo found as a result of a search through over 100 boxes of files (not fortuitously, as Klass implies). It should be noted that my review of Menzel's papers required prior approval from three different individuals and that my review of Forrestal's papers also required prior approval. Also not explained is Klass' outright falsehood in a letter to Robert Collins dated October 5, 1987: "Fine, wise guy. How are you going to talk away the results of the recent FBI Laboratory analysis of the onionskin paper used for the 'Cutler/Twining memo' of July 14, 1954. I hear the FBI Lab analysis shows the paper used is no more than *10* years old and probably is less than *five* years old."

Not only has there been no analysis of the paper by the FBI, according to both Ed Reese and Jo Ann Williamson at the National Archives, but careful research by Moore has determined that the onionskin paper on which the carbon of the memo appears was made only between January 1953 and 1975 at the very latest, and then only in response to bid orders. Thus the paper, which looks aged around the edges, has to be more than 12 years old and could *not* have been found in a normal store.

Another false statement is Klass' assertion that "it did not occur to Friedman to ask that Moore send him a copy of the

MJ-12 papers, nor did he request a copy during the subsequent two years."

Klass' second article for the *Skeptical Inquirer*[5] contains so much baloney it should be distributed by a delicatessen. Here we have the sad spectacle of an avionics writer pretending to be a combination psychiatrist-historian. Over and over again he tells us what the main players in the MJ-12 game "logically" or "certainly" or "surely" would have done in hypothetical situations. One would think Klass had really gone all out to study these famous people. The simple fact is that Klass has *never* been to the Eisenhower or Truman Libraries, or spent much time at the National Archives or the Library of Congress Manuscript Division. His superficial knowledge of the activities of the people leads me to conclude he hasn't gone beyond a quick look at a *Who's Who* biographical dictionary. To add insult to ignorance, he also concocts hypothetical actions and attitudes for the supposed counterfeiter of the documents and for the supposed head of a group that he thinks didn't exist in the first place!

What is even more depressing, given Klass' long residence in Washington and his concern with various classified space systems, is his seeming ignorance of the operation of intelligence agencies, of cover stories, of compartmentalization. Less surprising, considering that he writes what is supposedly nonfiction, is his complete lack of imagination as to why people would take certain actions. He presumes that his suggested reason is the *only* possible one.

Klass claims that people would have been chosen for MJ-12 because of the positions they held as of September 1947. "When they left these posts for other assignments or retired from government, their successors in those posts would *logically* have replaced them on MJ-12," he writes. My far more intensive investigation of the people and of the Washington scene leads me to the notion that people would have been chosen for their skills, competence, background knowledge, and demonstrated capabilities, *not* for their titles. I have read many recommendations for government positions including some from the MJ-12 people. The focus was always on capabilities, *not* on job title. Donald Menzel, for example, while an astrophysics professor at Harvard, served on a host of committees and maintained a long classified contact with the National Security Agency. He also did classified work for the CIA and 40 industrial companies, yet was still a professor at Harvard.

Particularly misleading are his comments about MJ-12 member Gordon Gray: "Gordon Gray, who had become *assistant* secretary of the army about the time MJ-12 allegedly was created, would have been a most unlikely member based on background and position. Gray was trained as a lawyer and had spent the previous ten years as publisher of two newspapers, and he did not hold a top-ranking Pentagon position. In mid-1949, Gray was named secretary of the Army, but he resigned April 12, 1950, to return to civilian life and was succeeded in that post by Frank Pace, Jr."

One might think that Gordon Gray did his stint and then went back to be president of the University of North Carolina and, of course, couldn't have been on such a powerful group as a "mythical" MJ-12. Once again the facts say otherwise, though they may not be apparent to one who, like Klass, knows Gray only from the briefest of biographies. Gray was chairman of the highly secretive, low-profile Psychological Strategy Board from July to December 1951. The PSB, most of whose records even from that era are still classified, was a kind of Cold War CIA and also reported through the NSC. Gray later served as the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, in effect the liaison between the Executive Branch of the Government and the NSC, the same job held by Robert Cutler in 1953-55 and 1958-61. He also was a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Most important of all as an indication of the regard with which he was held in the intelligence circles of Washington and by people like President Eisenhower, he was Ike's Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization and then Chairman of the 5412 Committee often referred to to as the "Special Group" and including only the Secretaries of Defense and State and the Director of Central Intelligence. Stephen Ambrose, author of *Ike's Spies*, calls it "the most secret committee of the U.S. Government. No covert action could be taken without the prior approval of the committee." Ambrose writes that Dr. Richard Bissell, longtime CIA official, said that operations once approved by 5412 would not even go before the full NSC because they were too sensitive.

Here is Klass' comment about MJ-12 member Sidney W. Souers: "Souers might have been a logical choice as an original member of MJ-12, because on September 26, 1947, he was named executive secretary of the president's newly created National Security Council. Souers, a naval reservist, had risen to the rank of rear admiral during World War II to become deputy chief of Naval Intelligence and played a role in organizing the then-new CIA. Souers retired from his NSC position in early 1950 to return to civilian life, but he, *rather than his successor* at NSC, is listed in late 1952 as an MJ-12 member." The implication is that Souers was finished with Washington and would have been replaced with his successor James Lay.

In reality, Souers was appointed as the first Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) by Truman on January 23, 1946. A fellow Missourian, he obviously had Truman's full confidence. According to John Ranelagh (*The Agency*) the appointment was made on the recommendation of James Forrestal, then Secretary of the Navy. Not only was Souers the first Executive Secretary of the NSC, to which the CIA reported after September 1947, but he groomed his successor, his assistant James Lay, and even maintained an office at the White House *after* officially going back to the business world at the end of 1950. He was a consultant to Truman until the end of the Truman term in January 1953. Souers also served as a member of the first "President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities" appointed by Eisenhower in January 1956. This clearly proves that Souers had maintained his high-level security clearance involvement in intelligence matters, and the respect of such outstanding Eisenhower associates as Gens. Omar Bradley and Jimmy Doolittle who were also on the

board. There is, of course, a Souers file at the Truman Library and, as a matter of fact, it is clear that Truman and Souers had a long relationship well after Truman returned to Missouri. Souers did indeed have a low public profile. But he had the full confidence of Harry Truman, FBI head J. Edgar Hoover, Vannevar Bush and other top officials inside the U.S. government, as his correspondence files attest.

Here is Klass' comment about MJ-12 member Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg: "General Vandenberg, as vice-chief of staff in 1947 of newly created U.S. Air Force, who would soon become chief of staff and hold that position until he retired in mid-1953, would also be a logical original member who would likely remain on MJ-12, because of the USAF's vital role in protecting the nation's air space and operating its network of early warning radars."

Klass seems unaware that Vandenberg was already dying of cancer when he retired (he died in 1954 at the age of 55), that he had been present at the Tehren, Cairo and Quebec conferences with Roosevelt, that he had been head of G-2 (military intelligence) at the War Department in 1946 and was personally picked by Truman as the second DCI succeeding Sidney Souers. He was reluctantly released back to Europe to be succeeded by Hillenkoetter. Surely his very, very strong background in military and civilian intelligence work would have had a great deal to do with his selection for MJ-12. Early warning radar indeed.

Speaking of the unique Bush-Forrestal-Truman memo establishing MJ-12 Klass claims its *only* purpose was to prevail upon Bush to serve as chairman of the new Joint Research and Development Board and notes that in his acceptance letter Bush emphasized "my wish ultimately to be free of governmental duties in order to return more completely to scientific matters" and that Bush resigned on October 1, 1948. Considering that the job at the DRDB was primarily an administrative matter of getting together a huge number of committees spanning a very broad range of technological and scientific specialties and that nobody was better at this than Bush, as demonstrated during his incredibly productive tenure as wartime head of the OSRD, it is not surprising that Bush wanted to drop administrative matters. But it is perfectly clear that he was still heavily involved in official Washington activities. There was direct correspondence between him and Robert Cutler and him and the President and many other members of MJ-12. Klass, of course, makes no note of this, nor does he tell us that Bush was famous for his focus on compartmentalization of classified activities, that a cover story would have been needed for the visit because newsmen caught up with Bush and Forrestal as they left the White House, that this was the only meeting between Bush and Truman in the last eight months of 1947, that Bush and Forrestal met together prior to the meeting with Truman, and that the official record of the meeting does *not* give a reason, often implying security. Bush even was a member of the 1953 Rockefeller Commission. He turned 65 in 1955.

Klass claims that *hard* evidence that the MJ-12 document was a fraud can be found in the December 10, 1948, declassified TOP SECRET document "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S." This document provides no such evidence. It is clear that the group preparing it had been given specific guidelines for its work, not unusual for a classified task force. For example, the three task forces set up on Project Solarium were each directed to look at one particular approach to containment of the Soviet Union. Many books about the CIA have stressed that there were often groups set up completely independently to look at a particular problem and with no knowledge of the existence of the other group or groups concerned with the very same problem. There is no reason to deny the possibility that those who wrote the 1948 document had no "need-to-know" for Majestic-12 or Majestic material.

During World War II after the British had broken the German codes and were getting copies of official German communiques almost as soon as the German High Command, only a very few key people were given access to these messages even though obviously many more could have benefitted from such access. The need to protect the breakthrough was of overwhelming importance.

The above examples (there are many more) establish that the Klass criticisms represent a kind of whistling-in-the-dark bravado by a man who perhaps himself fears that he has lost the argument. He cannot have taken any comfort from a poll taken on March 14, 1988, by the New York television program *People Are Talking* on which we both appeared. The poll revealed that 83 percent of the phone respondents said UFOs are "real," not imaginary. Klass' UFO debunking has become as credible as the pronouncements of the Flat Earth Society.

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The caffeine zone

by Ann Druffel

Ann Druffel, a longtime UFO investigator, is coauthor (with D. Scott Rogo) of *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts* (1980), a revised, updated version of which is soon to be published. She is active with the Los Angeles UFO Research Group.

I received the following case as an emergency through Bob Gribble of the Seattle UFO Reporting Center the same morning it occurred:

A young truck driver, Bill Crowley (pseudonym), 24, called claiming a hair-raising encounter with apparent UFOs. Crowley had yearned to drive big rigs all his life and had obtained a job with an intrastate trucking company in Banning, California, only three weeks before his encounter. Although he had had local trucking jobs since high school, this was the first time he had driven big rigs intrastate. He was a neophyte and under great stress to prove himself, faced with a need to keep alert for long hours under difficult driving conditions.

On November 11, 1988, Crowley caravanned with another trucker to deliver his load in Utah and at 5:00 P.M. started back toward Banning. Darkness fell and he found himself driving alone along isolated highways. A series of what he later called inexplicable events began to happen to him. He would conclude these had been "planned" by some type of phenomenon, probably UFO in nature. These occurrences, any one of which would likely be passed off as unusual but not especially significant, continued until he reached an Air Force base outside Las Vegas on his return journey. They culminated, shortly after midnight on November 12, in a Baker, California, episode which left him convinced that his truck was "possessed" and that "they" had been in control of him all along. He was left with residual terror, medically-diagnosed "anxiety," and a reluctance to sleep, even in his own bed, because he was afraid the phenomenon would return to harm him or his wife.

If the above experiences sound typical of a witness with delusional tendencies, withhold judgments for a while and pursue a brief list of the incidents which, gradually increasing in strangeness, turned a capable young man into a near-hysterical witness. The incidents, in order of their occurrence from Utah to Baker, California, were as follows:

(1) Two deer, on a darkened highway, caused him to swerve his truck and left him with the impression his truck had actually hit and killed one of them. Yet no signs of dead animals could be seen. (2) Later, he repeatedly saw forms of animals, including dinosaurs, crossing the road. The "sights" caused him to swerve wildly from lane to lane over an extended period. During this time, he noted small "blackouts" or loss of memory, lasting perhaps no more than a few seconds each.

(3) Outside Las Vegas on his return trip, several bright white balls of light reportedly zoomed around his truck, played around nearby hills, and then paralleled his truck as he drove along this journey. Some of the lights seemed to be "landing" in a large military compound which he later identified as Nellis Air Force Base.

(4) A three-foot-long object, "shaped somewhat like a plane," with blue, green, and red lights, also followed above his truck near Nellis AFB. (5) He made several attempts during the hours-long journey to pull off the road and sleep, for by the time he reached Las Vegas on his return trip he had been 30 hours without sleep and felt fatigued. He had shared a box of No-Doz tablets (caffeine) with his buddy upon leaving Las Vegas the first time and had taken about seven or eight of these tablets on an hourly basis during his long drive. He found it very strange that every time he tried to pull off the highway to rest, he immediately found himself pulling onto the road again.

(6) He pulled off the road in Las Vegas with the intention of visiting with his colleague, who was staying overnight, but immediately found himself going back on the highway. (7) In Baker about halfway between Las Vegas and his Banning destination, he intended to stop to eat at a restaurant, but found himself inexplicably going right past it. (8) At Razor Road in Baker, around 12:00 midnight, he pulled off the road and climbed up into the sleeper bed on the truck's cab. He immediately saw and heard sounds of shorting-out and extensive sparking of a small light on the truck trailer and felt the truck shaking. (9) He reportedly felt himself "being taken over" and was "slid into the driver's seat."

(10) He "felt cold" all over and then abruptly felt "as if electrodes had been fastened" on him. (11) He saw the starter button push in by itself, and the truck started. Oscillating fans whirred even though their switches were at "Off," the radio turned itself on, and music screamed through his ears. (12) He felt his hand "forced to stick it in gear, and the truck took off" with him. Crowley was so terrified that he cried out. The force or "presence" in the truck was like "two strong energy sources," which seemed to be in conflict with one another and to be "playing" with him and his truck.

(13) A brilliant light appeared over the cab, and the truck traveled along the highway under the control of some agency other than himself. After about 200 yards, a violent, swirling wind, bearing leaves and dust, swept around his cab and as abruptly departed.

After the wind departed all phenomena ceased, and Crowley felt in control once more. He felt a surge of warmth through his body and jumped out of the truck in the middle of the highway. Even though his truck was slightly jacknifed on the road and evidently in trouble, traffic refused to stop for him.

Not only did some of the cars reportedly "accelerate" around him instead of stopping to assist, but trucks also passed him—a flagrant violation of trucker's policy to always stop and help other trucks in trouble.

Two California Highway Patrol officers finally pulled up and demanded that Crowley move his truck from the highway. When these CHP officers were interviewed by LAUFORG field investigator Robert Willsey, they found, to quote one officer, "a genuinely frightened man. He was terrified." The other officer, when asked if he felt Crowley was play-acting, hoaxing or sincere, replied, "I would have to say that he had actually seen something that had frightened him."

But what had he seen? Or to put it another way, what had he *sensed*? Not only had his faculty of *sight* perceived strange events, but he had seen, heard, felt, and perhaps smelled and tasted odd things that night. In other words, most or all of his sensory faculties had been strangely affected.

The series of incidents is so extended in time and so bizarre in content, extending over at least four or five hours, that our LAUFORG investigators suspected that part, if not all, of the entire scenario might be hallucinatory in nature. But can a young man in normal good health hallucinate many differing scenarios? Careful investigation of this case by a MUFON-LAUFORG team, including Robert Willsey, Richard Neal, Jr., M.D., Joe Kirk Thomas and me, has uncovered the following:

Crowley is a healthy young individual. At my suggestion, he went to a medical clinic near his home and had tests taken in accordance with the protocol established by Dr. Neal for use in suspected encounter cases. All tests proved to be normal; but the examining physician diagnosed him as "anxious." Crowley had used an inordinate number of No-Doz tablets (seven or eight) during seven of his driving hours on November 11. He took two at first and then one tablet each hour, whereas the box directions recommended one every *three* hours.

He is accustomed to caffeine, drinking several cups of caffeinated coffee plus cola drinks daily, but had never used No-Doz before. In addition to the No-Doz on the 11th-12th of November, he had drunk a thermos of coffee as well as cola drinks, and altogether these amounted to a possible toxic dose. The Nellis Air Force Base Information officer confirmed that there were no flight or other operations during the day or night of November 11-12, that day being a national holiday (Veterans' Day). Therefore, the balls of light and the three-foot-long object with green, red and blue lights which maneuvered around and near his truck did not originate at this military facility, according to this officer's statement. A careful inspection of the truck's cab and trailer by Willsey and Thomas the following Saturday revealed no evidence of melted circuitry and any obvious electromagnetic effects.

There is, therefore, no physical or corroborating evidence from any source that "UFOs" were in the vicinity of Las Vegas on the night in question or that Crowley's truck was damaged in any way. We have, in other words, a one-witness account of strange happenings. Since circumstances similar to those reported occur frequently in UFO reports, I feel that hallucinatory episodes, possibly induced by excessive caffeine intake (caffeine toxicity), especially in one-witness cases, may explain some "UFO sightings" reported by witnesses who appear (and are) in every sense normal, honest, rational individuals.

Hallucinations are perceptions that are mistakenly ascribed to sources outside. They may be perceived by all five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and feeling. Several kinds of hallucinations may be experienced simultaneously. Contrary to popular belief—that hallucinations are seen solely by those who are victims of high fever, alcoholic delirium tremens, psychopathic delusion, or other medical complications, hallucinations are common and normal during dreaming and in the going-to-sleep (hypnogogic) and waking-up (hypnopompic) stages.

Hallucinations also occur to normal individuals during periods of great preoccupation or great fatigue, under conditions of excitement, fear, ecstasy or tense anticipation. They are facilitated by profound emotion or urgent need. In the case of normal individuals under great stress, hallucinations are often felt to be real or objective. The content of hallucinations, in both rational and psychotic individuals, is determined by and related to a person's ideas, needs and fears.

We have in Bill Crowley a young trucker who met most if not all the conditions described above. He was extremely tired, struggling to keep alert by ingesting an unaccustomed amount of caffeine. He was exhausted by the time the Baker incident occurred; by that time he had been without sleep for about 40 hours. Could some of the briefer hallucinations he experienced be due to hypnagogic or hypapompic visions, resulting from dozing off for a few seconds at a time?

Bill also met the criteria of great preoccupation and urgent need. He was fulfilling his life's ambition to his employer. These three factors—fatigue, great preoccupation, and urgent need—no doubt accounted for his first experiences of seeing wild animals in and on the side of the road. These frightened and confused him, and gradually greater and greater fear and excitement set in, setting the stage for even stranger experiences as his fatigue increased.

The lights Crowley perceived of Las Vegas may have been objective sightings. It is not unusual for witnesses to perceive strange balls of light in mountainous desert regions in the Southwest. Whether piezoelectric in nature or not, such phenomena are not uncommon. They are usually transitory in nature, but Crowley perceived them, across the highway, traveling along with his truck. Could part of this episode be hallucinatory in nature, even though the balls of light, when first seen, possibly were objective and "real?" Crowley was familiar with popularized UFO stories, including the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Project Blue Book*, a TV series (mercifully short-lived) which aired nationally a few years ago. If balls of light were actually traveling along with his truck, could his interest in UFOs have provided *the need* to hallucinate intervention and electromagnetic interference with his truck, to a degree reminiscent of a particular incident *Close Encounters*?

The "UFO" episodes grew stranger and stranger during the night and, if hallucinations were cause or partial cause, the escalation might have been caused by his growing fear. For example, around midnight, when he felt the truck shake and saw the trailer lights "sparking" as if shorting out, Crowley was at the height of his fear, excitement, fatigue, and other feelings of profound emotion—a perfect setup for the finale, when he felt himself "taken over" by an unknown force, numbed, and forced to sit in the driver's seat while "something else" was doing the driving.

The sensation of the whirlwind is curious, even in the midst of these strange goings-on, but this, too, may have been a completely natural occurrence. "Dust-devil" (miniature whirlwinds) are common on the Southwestern desert. There is no apparent explanation for the bright light seen over Crowley's truck during its headlong dash. Could that have been an added hallucination, a subconscious memory from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in the fatigued, confused mind of a trucker whose situation was curiously reminiscent of the situation of the man in the truck in that movie?

The copious caffeine Crowley used to help stay alert might have helped bring on transitory and/or more long-lived hallucinations. An explanation of how caffeine is a stimulant found in coffee beans, tea leaves, cocoa beans and cola nuts will be helpful here. Caffeine is a drug, whose stimulant effect is upon the nervous system specifically. Despite detrimental known effects, it does produce increased problem-solving ability, largely by improving memory and alertness. Even with his fatigue, Crowley remained sufficiently alert to avoid an accident, even driving as he was amid confusing, terrifying images.

Surprisingly, in the *Encyclopedia Brittanica* caffeine is listed with strychinine and amphetamines among those drugs having stimulating effects upon the nervous system, positioned squarely between the two other substances. Hallucinations travel to the brain through the sensory system; in other words, they are experienced through the nervous system and are perceived through all the senses. Caffeine acts directly through the nervous system. Crowley was taking inordinate, and uncustomary, amounts of this powerful drug, a minimum of 700-800 mg over a seven-eight-hour period, plus additional caffeine in coffee and cola drinks. Are these facts enough to make one suspect that the young man was experiencing a series of hallucinatory episodes, especially in view of the fact that he was surrounded by a plethora of physical and mental factors known to produce hallucinations in normal individuals? Since caffeine is metabolized at the rate of 15 percent every hour in a healthy person, the caffeine level in Crowley's body remained high for hours during the return trip from Utah.

Another physiological factor may have been at play in the Crowley case. Human terror, fear, excitement—in fact, all the strong emotions of mankind which involve danger, frantic flight—affect the adrenal glands. One of the principal substances released from these glands during such traumatic situations is epinephrine, also called adrenaline. Epinephrine is a substance produced by the medulla (the inner portion) of the adrenal gland. It is a powerful vasopressor drug—that is, it increases blood pressure and stimulates the heart. Caffeine also raises the metabolic rate by about 10 percent.

The outpouring of adrenaline caused by fright and other forms of emotional stress effects a rise in the blood-sugar level, which enables the muscles to do increased work. A rise in blood sugar also gives a feeling of strength and alertness. In addition, great emotional and/or physical stress releases substances from the adrenal cortex (exterior), such as cortisone and hydrocortisone which can produce euphoric effects, which might contribute to heightening hallucinatory material.

How, then, would the adrenaline and other substances which doubtless were being produced in the witness help explain Crowley's experiences? Perhaps the adrenaline, being

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Advertisement

The *UFO Conspiracy* by Jenny Randles, as published in hard cover by Blandford Press, contained an apparent endorsement from Whitley Strieber, the author of *Communion*, on the front cover. *The UFO Conspiracy* is also published in paperback by Javelin, the paperback imprint of Blandford Press, and contains no such endorsement.

The use of Mr. Strieber's name and certain material from *Communion* was not authorized by him. Mr. Strieber has not endorsed this book, has not read it and takes no position regarding its contents.

Caffeine zone —

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a vasopressor, temporarily constricted the flow of blood to his limbs. This may be an explanation why he at one point felt "numbed." He then quickly reports that he felt "as if hooked up to electrodes," a not-unlikely description of a situation where the blood is rushing to those parts of the body needed for flight. Likewise, when he jumped out of the truck after it stopped on the highway, he reportedly felt a "rush of warmth." His blood-sugar level may well have dropped abruptly once the immediate danger of being in a runaway truck was over. An abrupt drop in blood-sugar level brings on a wave of heat in many hypoglycemic (low-blood-sugar) patients.

As he tried to explain his situation to the Highway Patrolmen, the trauma he had just experienced, with its resultant anxiety and terror, could have produced his confusion and inability to verbalize.

This hypothesis is put forward as an attempt to explain at least some parts of Crowley's experiences. It is not meant to explain away all that happened that night. There well may have been a genuine UFO encounter during part of the journey. But the entire sequence of events seems to contain too much material for all of it to be linked with UFO phenomena. UFO encounters, particularly those that are retained consciously *en toto*, are normally transitory and generally brief. It seems likely, in the opinion of LAUFORG members, that the ingestion of unusual amounts of caffeine, plus the added physical effects of adrenaline upon his body and mind, may well be the cause of a great portion of his stated experiences.

We wish to thank witness Bill Crowley for his cooperation during the extended investigation of his report. The witness is not convinced that caffeine toxicity was the cause of his experiences. He feels that all of the episodes as described were objectively real, and since he seems to be a normal, honest individual this should certainly be taken into consideration in evaluation of the case.

In the first few hours of the investigation, Crowley had, during discussion with family members, figured that his trip from the Utah town where he delivered his load to Baker took a total of five hours and 40 minutes. Dividing the elapsed time into the mileage, he figured he traveled at an average speed of 76 mph. Some parts of the journey involved traveling up and down mountain grades at about 40 mph, and he made several stops to look at the balls of light. All these took time. He estimated that, at times, he would have to be traveling over 100 mph to obtain a 76-degree *average*. The witness states that he has no memory of doing such excessive speeds.

There are, of course, reports in the UFO literature in which the witness reports *compression of time* (the opposite of "lost time" cases). In some of these cases, the best-known of them being the "Peter and Frances" case in South Africa, hypnotic regression reveals abduction scenarios just as do cases where time lapses occur.

Letters

Abduction states

To the editor:

This letter is prompted by two issues raised in the March/April issue of *IUR*, the first having to do with the Bartholomew-Basterfield article "Abduction States of Consciousness." That piece focused on the Whitley Strieber abduction narrative as related in his book *Communion*, and since I was the initial investigator in this case I feel I owe the readers of *IUR* a comment or two.

From the beginning, Strieber related many incidents and details that are radically inconsistent with historically documented UFO-abduction cases. As one veteran researcher remarked, "We have years and years of consistently detailed abduction reports from all over the world—and then there's the Whitley Strieber account." Strieber himself has said many times that his bizarre experiences may have purely psychological origins, remarking to a *New York* magazine interviewer that "there may be something wrong with my brain."

On more than one occasion Strieber has appeared to back away from his abduction claims. He has stated that it was his *skepticism* that made his book a commercial success. Writing in *Publishers Weekly*, Strieber claimed that "*Communion* was written to bring into question the idea of alien abduction." Other books, he asserted, did not sell as well as his book for the reason that they were "based on the idea that aliens were real." In this skeptical *PW* article, entitled "What *Communion* Really Said," he expressed outrage that "one [TV] program edited tape so heavily that I appeared to be saying that I was taken aboard a spacecraft by aliens." Strieber ended his article by raising the possibility that it was perhaps "the inner mind" that caused people to see images of UFOs.

And yet in other context Strieber has claimed that he has an ongoing working relationship with the aliens—"visitors" in his more benign parlance. He told a reporter for *The Washington Post* that the alien visitors said they would help him with his book, to ensure its success. This report that aliens can, at will, influence the free marketplace to boost a particular product is quite unusual.

Strieber's remarkable claims, his drastically shifting attitudes toward experiences and the extremely unusual details that he reports all make a great deal of sense when he is seen in the context of "fantasy-prone personalities," as Bartholomew and Basterfield define the type. Their article provides a persuasive explanation for many of the genuinely peculiar, one-of-a-kind anomalies in Strieber's recollections. Since the UFO-abduction experience naturally involves altered states of consciousness, most abductees, like Strieber, do experience some confusion as to what is absolutely "real." But after nearly 13 years of working with hundreds of probable UFO abductees, I feel that Strieber has more difficulty telling the difference among dream, fantasy and reality than anyone I've known.

My guess, now, is that Bartholomew and Basterfield have correctly diagnosed the problem, and it is possible that Strieber himself, after reflection, might well agree. His stated goal, after all, is to question the nature of his various memories.

Having said that, however, I will go on to assert my opinion that Whitley Strieber nevertheless has suffered real UFO-abduction experiences. I have worked with corroborating witnesses in one of his reported encounters — a process described in his book — and have other, subtler reasons for this opinion. Early in my investigation Strieber related to me a number of details from an encounter he does

not describe in *Communion*; these details agree exactly with those contained in another kind of UFO incident I have looked into, involving other, thoroughly reliable individuals. This type of case has never been made public and I am convinced that Strieber could not have known about these highly unusual reports.

Throughout my relationship with Strieber I held the view that despite the continually-fluctuating nature of his experiences, Strieber was an abductee. From the first few weeks of our acquaintance I have had to defend that view in many contexts, most interestingly against the disparaging opinions of numerous other abductees, put off by the bizarre nature of some of his recollections. Some of these took the view that Strieber had simply made up his various accounts for financial gain, a theory espoused at great length by Thomas M. Disch in *The Nation*. (Curiously, in the *Publishers Weekly* article quoted earlier, Strieber accuses Disch of "taking the grotesque position that not only was I insane, but that mental illness was funny," charges apparently pulled out of thin air, since they appear nowhere in Disch's *Nation* article.) I wrote a letter to *The Nation* in response to Disch's attack, defending my belief that Strieber was a terrified man who had suffered real UFO experiences. It is a defense I have had to make many times since to skeptical television, radio and print interviewers. Some of these problems disappear when one accepts the Bartholomew-Basterfield diagnosis.

So where does this leave the Strieber case? As in any abduction report I've received, every detail must be viewed with caution until patterns emerge from a number of other reports to provide some sense of corroboration. Strieber's case has always had the problem of being only partially acceptable for that reason, and so very little changes in this regard. As to the idea that Strieber is likely to be a "fantasy-prone individual," an extra degree of caution is obviously called for, though there is no need for investigators to discard his case altogether because of these complicating psychological factors. For example, I was once involved in an abduction case which contained a great deal of external corroborating evidence; yet the abductee was schizophrenic. In a second case the evidence strongly supported the abduction account of a young man who was mentally retarded. Here and there genuine abductees have been involved with drugs or legal problems of one sort or another.

Probably every UFO investigator has, over the years, encountered abduction cases which for various reasons have compromising aspects and which therefore would lack persuasiveness in a scientific court of law. Yet these same cases, upon thorough investigation, may end up with their own kind of surprising validity. One can investigate them and make limited use of the data they yield, while realizing that one can't, as it were, present them in court. If Whitley Strieber is, as Bartholomew and Basterfield claim, a fantasy-prone individual, he is still in my opinion a real, terrified victim of actual UFO abductions. A case with certain conventionally "unreliable" aspects is not necessarily a false case. If we are discerning we need not discard the Strieber case out of hand.

In the last paragraph of their article the authors state that the significance of various psychologists' theories of fantasy-prone individuals cannot be overestimated in the context of UFO-abduction accounts. But here they are plainly wrong. The vast majority of UFO abductees, including many who have been psychologically tested, are not fantasy-prone individuals. Beyond that fact there is the problem of the surrounding circumstances of many UFO-abduction accounts — which often involve a number of mutually-corroborating witnesses recalling the same incident. In addition, one must often account for missing-time episodes, physical marks of various kinds, UFO sightings, sudden, shared terror on the part of multiple witnesses, and so forth. The fantasy-prone theory, though potentially useful in certain cases, is irrelevant as an "explanation" of most UFO abductions.

A second article in the same issue of *IUR* deals with the Gulf Breeze, Florida, incidents and again requires a response. Thoroughgoing analysis of this case by Bruce Maccabee has virtually demolished the arguments presented by critics of the Gulf Breeze photographer and his photos. I believe that Dr. Maccabee has established beyond any reasonable doubt the validity of the photographs and the veracity of the various witnesses.

Still, the issue is not moot. Mark Rodeghier, in his "Note to the Committed," states that I earlier claimed the photos were genuine "without qualification." The facts are these: During a taped television interview I was asked, among other things, what were my "gut feelings" about the case. I answered that "I feel that there is absolutely no sign of a hoax" and that therefore I accepted the validity of the photographs. Note the verb: I *feel* that. . . . When, later in the interview, I was asked for my final view of the case, I stated that there were "only two possibilities: that [Ed] saw this UFO and photographed it or the whole thing is a very elaborate hoax." This sentence, employed on the TV documentary as a summing-up, was my firmly-stated, objective evaluation of the case, not a "gut feeling" as my other answer had been. This wording surely constitutes the "qualification of belief" that Rodeghier denies I ever made. None of the critics on the other side of this case ever stated so firmly, publicly and evenly the two alternatives that the case presented at that time.

The Gulf Breeze sightings have generated a great deal of ill will among investigators. Now that the case is, for all practical purposes, resolved, let us get on with the exciting task of evaluating the fascinating new information it presents.

Budd Hopkins
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

To the editor:

The premise of "Abduction States of Consciousness," by Robert E. Bartholomew and Keith Basterfield (*IUR*, March/April), is both disturbing and illogical. Unless I'm misreading the authors' intent, their purpose seems to be to explain away the reported experiences of Whitley Strieber and thousands of others, past and present, by use of the psychologically-approved term "fantasy-prone personality." Not only does this smack of a milder (but no less insidious) version of the older all-purpose write-off "crackpot," it is also a prime example of a common breech of logic often committed by the literal-minded.

That is, since they have named a phenomenon, *they think they have explained it*. Perhaps the cited experts, Barber and Wilson, have isolated a specific kind of person with certain characteristics. Still, that is no justification to imply that these characteristics are necessarily the result of "fantasy," except to bolster the predetermined beliefs of those who undertook the study. We could just as easily call the cited characteristics "abilities," or "special talents." If persons have a special aptitude for mathematical reasoning, we conclude that they are gifted, even though our minds may not be able to comprehend the paths these minds take.

Indeed, these professional psychologists' penchant for subtly undermining the credibility of percipients of nonconsensus reality (the article advocated those beloved "standardized tests" as a method to identify "fantasy-prone personalities") resembles the Catholic Church's initial persecution of scientific visionaries.

A prerequisite for the study of the anomalous is the abandonment of perceived superiority of one research group over another. Since, at this point, we're like ants attempting to comprehend a rider lawn-

mower, we cannot afford to throw out evidence, however odd that evidence may sound. Unfortunately, Bartholomew and Basterfield apparently attempt such a carte blanche smear. It must leave the abductees in a more baffled state than ever.

Peter Stenshoel
Minneapolis

Gulf Breeze

To the editor:

In his editorial in the March/April issue of *IUR*, Jerome Clark asserts that UFOs, if genuine, have a "simple, uncomplicated, uncluttered appearance," typically without markings or protrusions. All others are to be treated as fakes. Are we now supposed to dismiss the McMinnville photos because the object had a topside protrusion slightly off-center and tilted? Are we to reject the Lodi, Wisconsin, object (January/February *IUR*, p. 18) because of its complicated set of markings? This would mean that in ufology the hoax level is more than an order of magnitude higher than in other fields of study, a result Clark should explain, and in a *logical* manner, if he expects skeptics to believe him. It would mean that hoaxers have been wasting their energies in fabricating the complicated shapes reported for many silently hovering or zooming objects. From now on, the hoaxer need only to construct and suspend a very simple model and need not go to the effort of endowing it with paranormal capabilities.

Are we to reject the Gulf Breeze, Florida, case on this basis and ignore all its features indicative of realism? Are we to ignore Bruce Maccabee's analysis of 18 sets of film exposed by Ed, including the analysis of the May 1 photo from the stereo-camera pair which affirmed the object to have a base diameter of about 14 feet and to be out over the water at a distance of 475 feet plus-or-minus 25 feet? This object appears to be of the same complicated shape and markings as in some of Ed's earlier Polaroid photos, as with his December 23 photo showing three such objects in all. Any one of these objects would require a heavy power source on board, or heavy electrical cable leading to it, to provide a fraction of the intensity of light emission deduced by Maccabee from Ed's photo of January 12. Not even one of these objects would fit inside a two-car garage.

Are we supposed to consider it bizarre if UFO intelligences have a strategy of dealing with us? Must we assume it plausible that they would make their appearances to us only at random times and places, never selecting a particular person for repeated appearances? I find this reasoning to be abhorrently nonscientific. Instead, I believe we should *not* dismiss UFO reports or features merely because they may seem inexplicable by the standards of late 20th-Century technology, or because it could mean that UFO intelligences are more experienced than we are. It might be thought that our dismissing of such cases would upgrade the dignity of ufology to the point where CSICOP members would find the subject acceptable. But in doing so, we would be casting aside all integrity and fair play.

James W. Deardorff
Corvallis, Oregon

To the editor:

To me it seems likely that Ed from Gulf Breeze photographed the reflection of similar objects in a window-pane. To obtain the different light effects, he may have used phosphorescent paint and a small lightblub which he inserted into the gas burner. The reflection of light on the road that can be seen on one of his most spectacular shots may well be a reflection coming from the inside of the pickup truck from which he took this particular photograph.

In short, I feel the investigation of this case should focus on Ed's old gas cooker, rather than on a mysterious implant in the man's brain.

Wim Van Utrecht
Antwerpen, Belgium

Secret lives

To the editor:

I read with great interest the article "The Secret Life of Donald H. Menzel" by Stanton T Friedman in the January/February issue of *IUR*. While the MJ-12 matter continues to elude conclusive substantiation, Friedman has added a new personality to the history of communications intelligence (COMINT). To my knowledge no one has previously associated Dr. Menzel with the code-breaking efforts of the United States prior to, during or after World War II. It is not altogether surprising that Menzel's activities in this area should have remained hidden for so long, since matters associated with COMINT and cryptanalysis are among the most highly classified areas within the field of intelligence.

A couple of minor points in the article do need to be clarified. Throughout the article Menzel is associated with an organization with the acronym of NSA. The only time this acronym is referred to in the article it is defined as the National Security Act. In fact, the acronym refers to the National Security Agency which is the senior body within our government concerned with COMINT and cryptanalysis.

Also in the article Friedman refers to Burgess, Maclean, and Philby as Soviet spies in the "British Service MI-5." All three were in fact Soviet spies but none of them served with MI-5 or the British Security Service which serves the same function as the FBI in terms of investigating domestic espionage. Both Guy Burgess and Kim Philby served in MI-6, the British Secret Intelligence Service which is equivalent to the CIA. Donald Maclean never served in a British intelligence organization but was a career officer in the British Foreign Service.

While these are relatively minor points, it seemed worthwhile to clarify them. Friedman has done considerable research in the matter of Menzel's secret life in intelligence and I would not like to see his efforts marred by minor matters of fact.

Scott M. Forsythe
Oak Park, Illinois

The confusion of NSA with the "National Security Act" was our typo, not Friedman's error. We apologize to him and to our readers.—The editor

A disclaimer

To the editor:

The advertisement on p. 21 refers to a matter which was the sole discretion of the publisher, Blandford Press.

I as author had neither responsibility for nor control over it.

Jenny Randles
Stockport, Cheshire
England